Drive-in for COFFEE
8 AM - 11 AM & 5 PM - 10 PM
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 48 No. 118 Pages: 12 Rs. 3.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
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MYSURU Monday 16th June 2025
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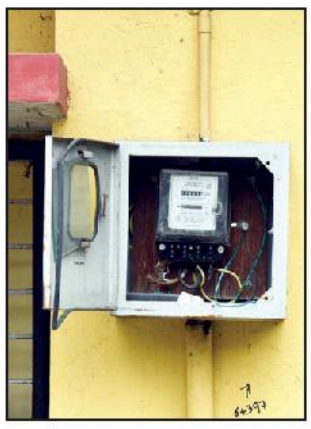
Power bills up again: Govt. slaps pension cess

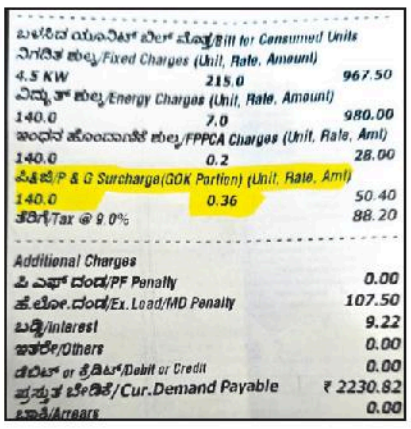
CESC officials justify surcharge

Karnataka Government has gone bankrupt, says MLA Srivatsa

Mysuru, June 16 (RK&BCT)- Residents across Karnataka are feeling the pinch as the State Government continues to find new ways to shore up its coffers, piling fresh financial burdens on the public. Following a slew of hikes in milk and curd prices, property tax, land registration charges, stamp duties, fuel rates, electricity tariffs, liquor prices, KSRTC bus and metro fares, and professional college fees, citizens will now pay an additional surcharge on their electricity bills to fund Government employees' pension and gratuity.

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has issued an order permitting all power supply companies (ESComs), including the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), to collect an extra 36 paise per unit as Pension and Gratuity (P&G) contribution from April 2025. This surcharge will remain in place until the end of the 2027-28 financial year, with a gradual decrease to 35 paise per unit in 2026-27 and 34 paise in 2027-28. Consumers will also have to clear pending arrears along with these contributions for the next three years.





ಬಳಕೆದ ಯೂನಿಟ್ ಬಿಲ್ ಮೊತ್ತ/Bill for Consumed Units		
ನಿಗದಿತ ಶುಲ್ಕ/Fixed Charges (Unit, Rate, Amount)		
4.5 KW	215.0	967.50
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ/Energy Charges (Unit, Rate, Amount)		
140.0	7.0	980.00
ಇಂಧನ ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ/FPPCA Charges (Unit, Rate, Amt)		
140.0	0.2	28.00
ಪಿಪಿಜಿ/P & G Surcharge(GOK Portion) (Unit, Rate, Amt)		
140.0	0.36	50.40
ತೆರಿಗೆ/Tax @ 9.0%		88.20
Additional Charges		
ಪಿ ಎಫ್ ದಂಡ/PF Penalty		0.00
ಹೆ.ಲೋ.ದಂಡ/Ex.Load/MD Penalty		107.50
ಬಡ್ಡಿ/Interest		9.22
ಇತರೆ/Others		0.00
ಡೆಬಿಟ್ or ಕ್ರೆಡಿಟ್/Debit or Credit		0.00
ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ/Cur.Demand Payable		₹ 2230.82
ಬಾಕಿ/Arrears		0.00

According to KERC order, "The levy comes into effect from April 1, 2025 and remains in force for the entire duration of the control period, or as decided by the Government from time to time."

Many consumers have raised objections, pointing out that the surcharge was approved without public consultation. "Usually, KERC holds public hearings before increasing tariffs. This time, they made a unilateral decision under political pressure. On one hand, they talk about Guarantee Schemes, but on the other, they hike prices and take the money back," said a resident. With this new surcharge, many fear that household budgets already strained by rising prices will be stretched in the coming years.

(See also page 6)

Reason for justification

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Sunil, Superintending Engineer (SE) of CESC, refuted claims that the KERC unilaterally imposed the Pension and Gratuity (P&G) surcharge.

"During the last KERC hearing in Mysuru, the matter was discussed in detail, and as usual, industries and consumers raised objections. **The decision was taken by the Government and approved by the Cabinet. This cess will not be a burden on consumers because we have reduced power tariff by 76 paise per unit, so even with the additional 36 paise towards pension contributions, consumers are still benefiting by 40 paise per unit,"** SE Sunil claimed.

Census 2027

to be conducted in two phases

Ministry of Home Affairs issues notification

New Delhi, June 16 (Agencies)- The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a notification announcing its intent to conduct the next Population Census in 2027, the first since 2011.

The exercise will be carried out in two phases, with reference dates set for different regions of the country. With the fresh announcement, India's next full-scale Population Census will now take place after a 16-year gap.

According to the notification released this morning, the reference date for the Population Census will be March 1, 2027, for all States and Union Territories, except for Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the reference date will be October 1, 2026.

"The reference date for the said Census shall be 00:00 hours of March 1, 2027, except for the Union Territory of Ladakh and the snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu & Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, for which it shall be 00:00 hours of October 1, 2026," the notification stated.

The Census of India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990. The fresh notification supersedes an earlier notification issued in March 2019, which had announced the now-postponed Census 2021.

The last decadal Census was conducted in 2011 in two phases: House Listing Operations (HLO): April to September 2010 and Population Enumeration (PE): February 9 to 28, 2011.

A similar two-phase Census was planned for 2021, with House Listing from April to September 2020 and Population Enumeration in February 2021. Preparations for the first phase had been completed, and fieldwork was scheduled to begin on April 1, 2020, but was indefinitely postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 16th June 2025

Financial aid for beedi, cine, mine workers' children

Mysuru, June 16- Applications have been invited for the grant of financial assistance to the children of Beedi, Cine, Limestone and Dolomite Mine workers for the academic year 2025-26, studying in Class I and above.

Every student must have an Aadhaar linked individual Savings Bank Account in any Nationalised/ Scheduled/ Co-operative/ Grameen/ Private Bank, having Core Banking System (CBS) and National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) facilities.

The One-Time Registration (OTR) process is mandatory for submission of scholarship applications to benefit from the Ministry's Scheme — Financial Assistance to the wards of Beedi, Cine and Non-Coal Mine Workers.

Aadhaar is mandatory for completing the OTR and payments will be disbursed exclusively through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB) system and not via traditional bank account payments.

The application should be submitted online by all the applicants through *scholarships.gov.in* as per the guidelines available on the website. Active contribution of the Head of Educational Institutions is requested to carry out this benevolent task. They are to register their School/ College in the National Scholarship Portal *scholarships.gov.in* to scrutinise the applications submitted by the students, approve it and submit it online through their registered ID before the due date, failing which the applicant would not be eligible for scholarship and the Head of the institution would be held responsible for the same.

The scholarship applicant should also grant consent to the Welfare Commissioner regarding use of Aadhaar Number for availing the benefits under the scholarship scheme.

Income certificate and Beedi/ Cine ID Card (issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment) must be uploaded along with the application.

Details of scholarship amount (for purchase of dress/books etc.) are as follows: Class I to IV - Rs. 1,000; V to VIII - Rs. 1,500; IX and X - Rs. 2,000; XI and XII - Rs. 3,000; ITI, Polytechnic & Degree Courses (including B.Sc Agriculture) - Rs. 6,000; Professional Courses - Rs. 25,000. Last date to submit applications online for Pre-Matric Scholarship is Aug. 31 and Post-Matric is Oct. 31.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

MARICHA'S REFORMATION: ***When Visvamitra takes Rama and Lakshmana with him to protect his yagas, he tells them the story of Tataka, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. A yaksha named Suketu, who was childless, did penance. Pleased with his tapas, Brahma blessed him with a daughter. He named her Tataka. She was endowed not only with beauty but with great strength. In due course, she married Sunda. But her husband Sunda died due to sage Agastya's curse. So, she, along with her son Maricha, attacked the sage. Angered, the sage cursed them and turned them into demons, who began to terrorise sages. Visvamitra tells Rama to kill Tataka. Rama is hesitant, because He never kills women. But Visvamitra convinces Him of the need to eliminate Tataka, and finally He kills her.***

While Visvamitra performs a yaga, Maricha and the demon Subahu try to disrupt it. Rama and Lakshmana are guarding the yaga, and have to deal with the demons. Rama fires an arrow at Maricha, which flings him miles away. He aims the *aagneya astra* ***(the arrow of fire) at Subahu, who is burnt to death. The treatment he receives at the hands of Rama turns out to be a good lesson for Maricha. Now that his life has been spared, he decides to give up his cruel deeds. He leads an austere life. One may wonder why Rama spared Maricha's life. Had He not, then Maricha would not have come as the golden deer and Sita would not have been abducted. Rama did not kill Maricha, because there was scope for his reformation. The idea behind a punishment is never destruction, but to reform the one who has done something wrong. So Rama gave Maricha an opportunity to change.***—*In The Hindu*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Bank barred from offering free Labubu dolls

Beijing: A bank was ordered to stop its practice of enticing new customers by offering them free Labubu dolls.

Ping An Bank, based in Shenzhen, China, recently announced a promotion that would award new customers who deposit at least $7,000 and keep it in their account for at least three months with a Labubu, a popular stuffed toy sold by Pop Mart.

Regulators said they are concerned that the promotion, and other similar promotions at other banks, could drive up banking costs.

Hence the National Financial Regulatory Administration's Zhejiang branch is now barring the bank from offering the free toys and other non-banking-related perks.

Middle schoolers design prosthetics for dog

Beaverton: Students at an Oregon middle school used recycled materials to design and build a prototype prosthetic for a dog with a spinal injury.

The seventh graders at Valley Catholic Middle School in Beaverton were challenged to create a prototype prosthetic for Ember, a 16-week old labradoodle whose back legs were paralyzed as a result of a spinal injury.

The project served as the final exam for the school's STEM programme. School's STEM teacher, Susan Fu said the goal of the project is to "challenge students to apply their knowledge to a real-world scenario." The students' designs, which were all constructed from recycled materials, were tested using a stuffed animal.

The school said there is a possibility of the more successful designs from the class being 3D printed in full-size to see if they can help Ember walk.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Thyroid problems cause decreased fertility, increased risk of abortions, affects baby's growth and development. Get your thyroid hormone levels checked before planning pregnancy.

By Dr. Amulya K.G, Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

New District BJP Presidents

K.N. Subbanna *Ravi Kalappa*

Mysuru, June 16 (RK&DM)- With the BJP revamping its party's organisational structure nationwide, the State BJP has appointed new District Presidents for the remaining 10 organisational districts, according to which K.N. Subbanna (Kumbralli Subbanna) has been named as the new Mysuru District (Rural) President. The BJP had appointed the District Presidents for 23 districts of the State in the first phase several months ago.

Other District Presidents appointed are: Siddesh Nagendra (Hassan), Ravi Kalappa (Kodagu), Kutyaru Naveen Shetty (Udupi), Virupakshappa Ballari (Haveri), N.Rajashekar (Davanagere), K.T.Kumaraswamy (Chitradurga), H.S. Ravishankar Hebbaka (Tumakuru), Chidananda Gowda (Madhugiri) and S.V. Ramachandra Gowda Seekal (Chikkaballapur).

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **109.60 feet**	Today's level **2,277.10 feet**	Today's level **2,851.78 feet**
Last year's level **86.75 feet**	Last year's level **2,263.74 feet**	Last year's level **2,827.81 feet**
Yesterday's level **109.12 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,276.36 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,851.73 feet**
Today's Inflow **6,631 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **9,820 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **4,736 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **915 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **5,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **4,583 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***All spiders produce silk. Something common to all 40,000 species of spiders is that they all spin silk.***
- ***One spider can produce up to seven different types, each used for a different purpose such as spinning webs or capturing prey.***
- ***Females can lay up to 3,000 eggs at one time. These eggs are housed in one or more silk sacs.***
- ***Some females will die shortly after laying eggs while others will carry spiderlings on their backs or share prey with them.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A man was in court, charged with wrongful parking. In his defence he said, "Your honour, I parked near a board which read "Fine for parking!!"

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 86.10
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 116.65
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.44
1 Euro	= Rs. 99.33

VOICE OF THE READER

Darkness on Bannur Road: A growing threat to safety

Sir,

State Highway 33, popularly known as Bannur Road (Vidya Vikas College of Engineering Road), particularly near the Nadanahalli Junction, has become a cause for serious concern among residents and commuters.

Despite the road being recently developed and widened for better connectivity, it remains concealed in darkness due to the complete absence of street lighting for most of its stretch.

This lack of illumination has made night travel not only difficult but dangerous. Motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, are forced to navigate with extreme caution due to poor visibility. The situation becomes more risky during the early hours and late nights, where any obstacle or mishap could go unnoticed until it's too late.

The recent discovery of a woman's dead body in a deserted stretch near Nadanahalli Junction has only increased public anxiety. This incident has cast a spotlight on how the absence of basic infrastructure, such as street lighting, can contribute to both traffic hazards and law-and-order issues.

Despite the growing number of residential layouts along this route and the daily movement of hundreds of vehicles, there seems to be a complete lack of response from the authorities concerned. Safety should never be an afterthought.

As Mysuru grows and expands, infrastructure must evolve to meet the needs of its citizens, not just in terms of roads and buildings, but also public safety.

It is high time that the authorities take immediate action to install proper street lighting on this crucial stretch and ensure the safety and security of all those who use it.

—Anagha

Mysuru
2.6.2025

Bonsai Garden at Ganapathy Ashram in Mysuru receives Guinness title

Guinness World Records representative Rishinath presenting an official certificate to Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji during a special ceremony held at the Ashram's Nada Mantapa on Saturday.

Mysuru, June 16 (MK&BCT)- The Kishkinda Moolika Bonsai Garden, located at Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram in Mysuru, has secured a place in the Guinness World Records for housing the world's largest collection of bonsais.

Established in 2006, the renowned garden has long attracted tourists and devotees nationwide and abroad.

The Ashram's latest achievement adds to its list of unique records and reflects the vision of Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, whose commitment to environmental conservation has resulted in this expansive collection.

As part of the Vanadurga Puja held from June 6 to 15, the garden showcased thousands of rare bonsais sourced from countries including Taiwan, England, and Japan. Currently, the collection stands at an impressive 10,836 bonsais.

In recognition of this remarkable feat, Guinness World Records representative Rishinath presented the official certificate to Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji during a special ceremony held at the Ashram's Nada Mantapa on Saturday.

Government to set up residential school for cancer-affected students

Madhu Bangarappa

Shivamogga, June 16 (DM)- Stating that 3,500 students suffering from cancer have been identified in the State, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that a residential school will be set for cancer-affected students at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (popularly known as Kidwai Cancer Hospital) in Bengaluru.

Speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, Madhu Bangarappa said that the residential school will facilitate learning along with treatment for cancer students.

Maintaining that the school will be established to prevent students from being deprived of their studies as cancer treatment may take 6 months or a year or even more, he said that the Department engaged an NGO for identifying cancer-affected students across the State.

Asserting that poor students find it difficult to continue their studies and get cancer treatment, he said that the establishment of the residential school is going to be an answer for this problem.

Noting that in the first phase, 1,500 students who badly need such a facility, will be admitted to the school, Madhu Bangarappa said that the officials have been asked to mark 3 acres of land belonging to the Department near Kidwai Hospital.

'Parents of children admitted to the school, who come here for taking care of their wards, will also be given free food and shelter. The school will have a playground and a Library too,' he said adding that it has been planned to start the school from this July itself after ensuring necessary infrastructure and funding.

Shreyas of Mysuru secures All India Rank 5 in UPSC CAPF 2024

Navo-Pramati School of Civil Services student ranks first in Karnataka

S. Shreyas

Mysuru, June 16- S. Shreyas, a student of Navo-Pramati School of Civil Services of Navodaya Foundation, Mysuru, has secured All India Rank 5 and topped the Karnataka Cadre in the UPSC Central Armed Police Forces (Assistant Commandants) Examination 2024.

Son of H.S. Siddarame Gowda and Sujatha, residents of Mysuru, Shreyas' success is a testimony to his relentless hard work, disciplined preparation and the expert guidance provided by the institution.

At Navo-Pramati School of Civil Services, focus has always been on developing leadership, discipline, national service and a strong moral character in the students.

With a team of dedicated UPSC mentors, experienced faculty and structured coaching programmes, the institute ensures that aspirants receive academic knowledge along with personality development, communication training and soft skills — all of which are critical in shaping future leaders.

Joyalukkas Foundation hands over keys of Joy Homes

Bengaluru, June 16- The Joyalukkas Foundation recently handed over the keys of 50 new Joy Homes to underprivileged families in Karnataka.

The key handover ceremony was inaugurated by Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar.

Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman, Joyalukkas Group, presided. The event was also attended by Mohammed Rihan Nawab, CEO, Emmar Properties, Mohammed Rizwan Nawab, Vice-Chairman of KSRTC, Chetan Kumar Mehta, President, Jewellers Association, Bengaluru and Thomas Mathew, Executive Director, Joyalukkas.

MLA lays foundation stone for Bannimantap school toilet

Mysuru, June 16 (BLU&DM)- Narasimharaja (NR) MLA Tanveer Sait recently laid the foundation stone for the construction of a toilet at Mysore Lions School in Bannimantap at a cost of Rs.15 lakh, funded from his Legislator's Local Area Development Fund.

Speaking on the occasion, Sait said that he has been a member of Lions Club for the past 20 years and it is his responsibility to provide facilities at the school.

Asking the school students to concentrate on their studies, he said that social education must be valued. Stressing on the need for teachers to impart value-based education, he said that the students of the school should grow as responsible and concerned citizens.

Maintaining that this was a small contribution to the school, he assured that he would be always there to extend any help and wished that the school reach greater heights in the future.

MLA Tanveer Sait performing** Guddali Puja **for the construction of a toilet at Mysore Lions School in Bannimantap recently as others look on.

Sait was felicitated on the occasion. Lions Club office-bearers Shivakumar, C. Mohan Kumar, J. Lokesh, Girish, B. Shivanna, Virupaksha, P. Ramesh, Dr. Prabha Mandal and Krishnamurthy, School HM Hemavathi, KRIDL Executive Engineer (EE) Thippareddy, AEE Archana, Contractor Shariff and others were present.

17 Tahsildars transferred

Mysuru, June 16 (SPN&DM)- The Government has transferred 17 Tahsildars of Revenue Department serving at various places, according to an order issued by the Under Secretary of Revenue Department (Service-3) H.G. Mukthar Pasha.

As per the transfer order, H.P. Raviprasad, who was serving at Kodagu DC Office Election Section, has been transferred as MDA (Mysuru Development Authority) Tahsildar at Mysuru, while M. Manjunath, who was serving as Grade-2 Tahsildar at Sullia, has been posted as Kodagu DC Office Election Tahsildar.

Woman loses Rs. 5.80 lakh to online fraudsters

Mysuru, June 16 (KS)- A 24-year-old woman, who had invested in online trading, has lost Rs. 5.80 lakh to online fraudsters.

The woman, who is working at a private company and residing in Lashkar Mohalla, invested a total of Rs. 5.80 lakh in phases after she was promised of high returns to her investment. She had come to know about online trading investment while viewing a YouTube channel and her number was added to 99 Wing Discussion Group on WhatsApp, where she was assured 50 percent profit for her investment.

Later, as per the instructions from the fraudsters, she downloaded a mobile app and initially invested Rs. 20,000 and later invested a total of Rs. 5.80 lakh in phases and had also withdrawn Rs. 60,000 profit once. But sensing something fishy, she tried to withdraw her investment and received a message that her invested amount would be deposited in her Bank account in 48 hours.

As she did not receive her invested money even after 48 hours, she lodged a complaint at city's CEN Crime Police Station.

Death of Forest Dept. contract employee under mysterious circumstances

FIR registered against five including RFO, DRFO

Madikeri, June 16- Following a complaint from the wife of a Forest Department contract employee, who died under mysterious circumstances, Kutta Police have registered an FIR against five persons including two Forest Officers.

FIR has been registered against Kodagu's Kallahalla Range Forest Officer (RFO) Rajashekar, Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) Venugopal, Department staff Shivu, Abhi and Prakash under Section 105, 211 and 213 by Kutta Police, who are investigating.

Incident: The deceased, identified as Gopala, who had been serving as a driver on contract basis since 25 years, left for work on May 22, along with other staff during which the vehicle reportedly met with an accident and Gopala, who had sustained severe injuries, was admitted to a hospital in Mysuru.

Deceased Gopala

As Gopala had sustained serious injuries he was kept under observation in an ICU for 72 hours and later, he was brought to his home. Again on May 26, Gopala was taken to the hospital for treatment. But Gopala died on June 12 at his home. But post-mortem was not conducted as per the rules of the Forest Department and the Forest Officers allegedly performed the last rites of Gopala.

Meanwhile, Gopala's wife, alleging that though the accident took place on May 22, the Forest officials had not lodged a complaint at the Police Station and had not informed his wife or children about the accident nor did the Forest Department provided adequate treatment resulting in his (Gopala) death, lodged a complaint at Kutta Police Station.

Based on the complaint, Kutta Police have registered a case on June 14.

Miscreant snatches gold ornaments from woman working in agri field

Mysuru, June 16 (KS)- A woman, working in an agricultural field, sustained injuries on her ears when a miscreant snatched her earrings and gold chain near Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway on Saturday morning.

The woman, who lost her valuables worth about Rs. 4.50 lakh, is 75-year-old Venkatamma, a resident of Naganahalli.

The accused, who snatched her gold ornaments and sped away on a bike, was wearing a black dress, jerkin and a cap.

On Saturday at about 7.30 am, Venkatamma was working in her agri filed next to the Service Road on Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway when a youth, aged about 25 years, parked his bike on the side of the Service Road, came near Venkatamma and snatched her 37-gram gold *mangalya* chain and 10-gram earrings.

Before the shocked Venkatamma could scream for help, the accused sped away on his bike towards Mysuru.

Metagalli Police, who have registered a case in this regard, are investigating.

Man goes missing from Bannur

Jayaramu

Bannur, June 16 (KS)- A 55-year-old man, who left from Cauvery Circle in Bannur without informing anyone at about 4 pm on June 8, has since gone missing.

The missing man is Jayaramu, a resident of Madigahalli village, Bannur hobli in T. Narasipur taluk.

He is 5.5 ft. tall, round faced, obese, suffering from gangrene on both legs, has a mark of a wound on his left leg, has undergone hernia operation, has a mark of a surgery on his left thigh, speaks Kannada and was wearing a pink coloured shirt, white dhoti and was carrying a yellow & orange coloured towel.

Those having any information about the missing man, may contact Bannur Police Station on Ph: 08227-275632, according to a press release.

One killed as reversing truck hits bike

Mysuru, June 16 (KS)- One person was killed while another sustained serious injuries when a reversing truck hit the bike near TVS Factory at Kadakola on Friday.

While the deceased has been identified as Harsha Kumar alias Harish (23), the seriously injured pillion rider is 51-year-old Suresh, residents of Mulluru village in Nanjangud taluk.

On Friday, Suresh and Harsha had gone to Sindhuvalli on the Hero Splendor bike (KA-09-JD-8678) belonging to Suresh's son on some work. While returning, a truck (KA-45-9945), which was reversing from a puncture shop near TVS Factory, hit the bike, resulting in Harsha and Suresh sustaining serious injuries. Though both the injured were rushed to K.R. Hospital in Mysuru, Harsha is said to have succumbed to injuries.

Mysuru South Police have registered a case.

Obituary

Mahadevamma

Mysuru, June 16- Mahadevamma (80), wife of retired ASI late B. Madegowda and a resident of Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, passed away yesterday in city. She leaves behind her sons (*Mysuru Mithra* News Editor N.M. Mahadeva and senior journalist N.M. Basavaraju), daughters (N.M. Kamala, N.M. Shantha and N.M. Gayathri), sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning.

Naveen Kumar Kaje

Naveen Kumar Kaje (58), a photographer and a resident of Yaraganahalli, passed away following a heart attack yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at his native place Panja, Puttur taluk in Dakshina Kannada district.

Naveen Kumar, who began his career as a photo journalist, later served as a private photographer for three decades besides directing many short films.

Prasanna

Hunsur: Prasanna (28), son of late Hanumaiah and a resident of Sadashivanagar in the town, passed away yesterday.

He leaves behind his mother, two sisters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Sadashivanagar Burial Grounds behind the Forest Department Office today.

College campus ready, but awaits CM, Minister to open

Students of Government First Grade College, Kuvempunagar, study amidst uncertainty

Mysuru, June 16 (SPN&BS)- Even as the academic year 2025-26 has begun, the long-awaited inauguration of the J.P. Nagar campus of the Government First Grade College (GFGC), Kuvempunagar, remains uncertain.

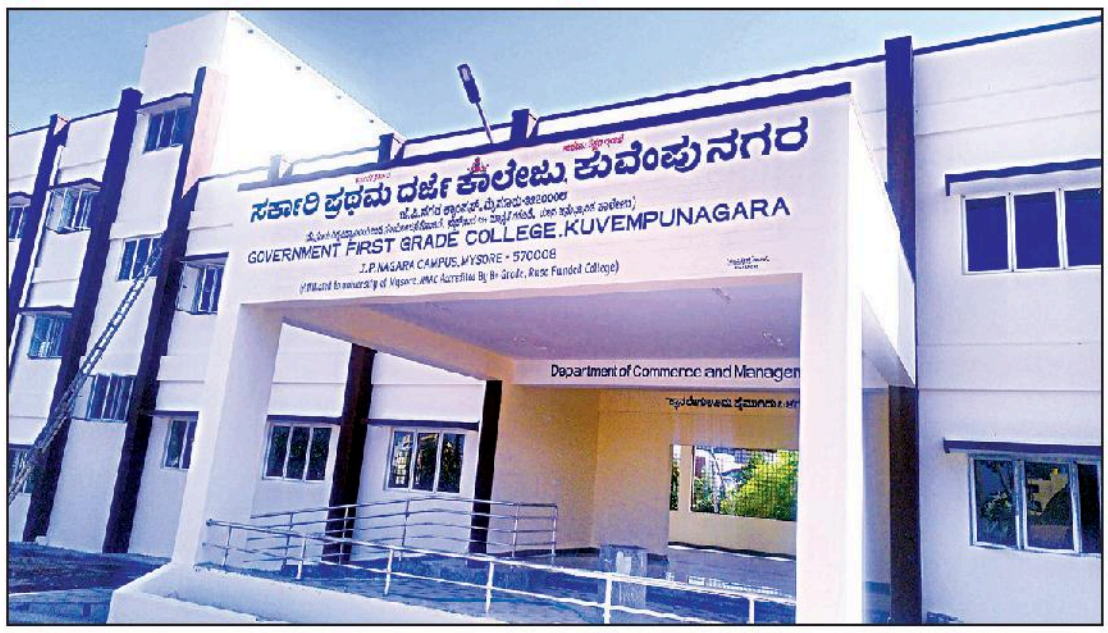
The GFGC in Kuvempunagar, established in 1996 with a modest number of students, now has a strength of 1,700. However, the existing infrastructure is unable to cope with the increasing student population, disrupting the academic environment.

The issue was first raised in 2018 when the then Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas brought the matter to the attention of the Higher Education Minister. Consequently, Rs. 4.10 crore was sanctioned for expansion.

A new campus was built at Site No. 233 (10 guntas of land) in Siddalingeshwara Layout, First Stage, J.P. Nagar, which includes nine classrooms, an office room, a Principal's chamber and separate restrooms for boys and girls.

Additional funds

In the 2024-25 State Budget, an additional Rs. 3 crore was allocated to construct ten more classrooms. Sixty percent of the desks for these rooms have already been procured, but official permission to install them is pending, leaving students frustrated.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GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGE, KUVEMPUNAGARA
J.P.NAGARA CAMPUS, MYSORE - 570008
Department of Commerce and Managem

Srivatsa

Two proposals have been drafted for the development of the large expanse of Government land in front of the J.P. Nagar GFGC campus. One is to construct a stadium, as students have strongly demanded. The other is to develop the J.P. Nagar Bus Stand. A final decision will be taken in consultation with the Chief Minister at the highest level of Government.

– T.S. Srivatsa, MLA

More than 500 students from Madapura, Hampapura, H.D. Kote Handpost and Sargur taluk have taken admission in the college. The BA course offers optional subjects like History, Sociology, Kannada, Economics and Political Science. B.Sc streams include Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Electronics, and Mathematics. B.Com and BBA courses offer Commerce and Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/ Diploma Programmes (AEDP), bringing the total student strength to 1,700.

According to the teaching staff, the college also attracts students from Periyapatna, Kollegal and even North Karnataka. Many of them, including a significant number of girls — around 40 percent of total admissions — stay in PG accommodations and hostels.

The new campus is fully equipped with nine toilets for boys, six for girls and a borewell for water supply. If the district authorities grant permission before the facilities fall into disrepair, the B.Com and BBA departments are expected to shift to the new campus immediately.

Wait since July 2024

The campus was initially scheduled to be inaugurated on July 31, 2024, by District in-Charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa. However, the event was postponed due to the unavailability of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. A second attempt to hold the ceremony on May 28, 2025, was similarly delayed.

Meanwhile, girl students have urged District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa to allot six acres of Government land, under the Mysuru Development Authority (MDA), formerly MUDA, near the new campus to build a stadium and promote sports activities.

Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa said, he will meet the Higher Education Minister and District Minister to request a firm date for the inauguration. "If that does not happen soon, we will pressure the Higher Education Department to shift the B.Com and BBA departments to the new campus without waiting for a formal ceremony," he said.

Nivedithanagar indoor stadium caught in 'political game'?!

Mysuru, June 16 (SPN&BS)- Though eight years have elapsed since the indoor stadium, exclusively meant for playing shuttle badminton, was built in Nivedithanagar in city, under Chief Minister's Special Funds for the year 2017-18, there is no word yet on opening the facility for public use.

As the stadium continues to remain unused, the unabated growth of weeds and shrubs around the building present a pathetic sight of the premises, resembling a warehouse of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

The then Corporator of Nivedithanagar Ward M.J. Jagadish had taken initiative to construct a separate full-fledged facility for budding shuttle badminton players of this part of the city, by tapping special funds from the Chief Minister. Apart from the indoor stadium, a compound wall was built around, to safeguard the premises from trespassers.

Nirmala Harish, who succeeded Jagadish as Corporator, brought additional funds and completed the stadium related works. However, there is no word yet on inaugurating the facility, though lack of willingness among officials and politics influencing the decision making system, is said to be the reason behind the delay in inaugurating the stadium.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda made every attempt to inaugurate the stadium and also took the officials to task on several occasions, but the officials paid no heed, rue the local residents.

Master sportsman Basavaraju said, several memoranda have been also submitted to MCC Commissioner to hand over the maintenance of the stadium to Nivedithanagar Samskrutika Mattu Kreeda Vedike, on the lines of Ramakrishnanagar Shuttle Badminton Court, J.P. Nagar Stadium and K.G. Koppal Stadium, but to no avail.

Kempegowda Jayanti on June 27:
Publicity vehicles flagged off in city

Mysore, June 16 (BLU&TRR)- The 516th birth anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda will be celebrated in city and across the State on June 27.

Two colourfully decorated publicity vehicles of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations were flagged off by Sri Somanatheshwara Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Mutt, Mysuru Branch, at a function held at Bandanthamma Temple premises in Kuvempunagar here this morning. Also, posters of the celebrations were released.

Of the two publicity vehicles, one will traverse across the four Assembly Constituencies in city while the other will move around in rural areas urging people to participate in the celebrations.

On June 27 morning, a colourful procession will mark the commencement of the celebrations which will start in front of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple.

The aim of the publicity vehicles is to ensure that the birth anniversary of Kempegowda is celebrated by all sections of the society as a tribute to the former ruler of Bengaluru, who during his reign, had initiated several measures for the well-being of all sections of society.

MLAs G.T. Devegowda and K. Harishgowda, former MP Prathap Simha, President of the Jayanti Celebrations Committee Prashanth Gowda, former President of District Vokkaligara Sangha Vikrant P. Devegowda and others were present during the launch of the publicity vehicles.

Ex-MP Prathap Simha questions
State Govt. over fresh caste survey

Mysuru, June 16 (BLU&DM)- Lashing out at the State Congress Government for its move to order a fresh caste survey, former MP Prathap Simha said that it was a wasteful exercise as the Union Government is launching a country-wide caste and population census.

Speaking to presspersons here this morning, Simha wondered what all had happened to the Kantharaj Commission Report which conducted a caste survey in the State when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister a decade ago (2013-18).

Arguing that with the Congress Government deciding to conduct a fresh caste survey, the earlier survey which cost the Government over Rs.150 crore will become sheer waste of money, the former MP questioned the propriety and the rationale behind the move for a fresh caste survey.

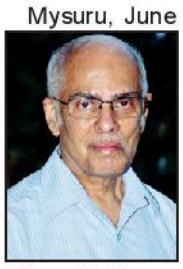
Maintaining that the Siddaramaiah-led Government decided for a fresh caste survey after meeting Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi and other top Congress leaders at New Delhi recently, Simha reiterated that there was no need for the State Government to order a fresh survey when the Union Government had declared much before that the caste and national population census will commence shortly.

Accusing the State Government of trying to take shelter under the caste survey bogey for hiding its own failures and maladministration, Simha questioned MLC Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah what socio-economic knowledge he had to defend the fresh caste survey.

Strongly defending the caste enumeration in the national population census ordered by PM Modi headed Union Government recently, Simha said that this census has not been ordered as a show of political strength. Instead it is an exercise for finding out the factual economic status and other statistics on key aspects of living of the people.

He further said that it is a ploy by CM Siddaramaiah to stick on to his post at a time when many other senior Congress leaders are trying to pull him down. Simha also accused Siddaramaiah of doing little for Mysuru, his home district.

Pension surcharge unethical:
MGP urges consumers to oppose move



Bhamy V. Shenoy

Mysuru, June 16 (BCT)- Reacting to Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) levying an additional 36 paise per unit as Pension and Gratuity (P&G) contribution from April 2025 on consumers using more than 200 units or opting out of free power, **Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) has termed the surcharge a violation of the spirit of power sector reforms.**

In a press release, Bhamy V. Shenoy, Founding Working President of MGP, said reversing this charge is unlikely unless there is widespread public protest, which appears improbable at present. However, he urged consumers to register their opposition now to deter similar "unjustified and unethical cess" in future.

He pointed out that the Karnataka Electricity Reform (KER) Act of 2002, which separated power generation, transmission and distribution, made it the State Government's responsibility to fund pension and gratuity payments. However, in 2022, the BJP Government amended the Act to allow power companies to recover these contributions from consumers through tariff hikes.

While the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) initially rejected requests from Energy Supply Companies (ESCOMs) for this recovery, the Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Writ Petition against the amendment was dismissed by the Karnataka High Court on March 25, 2024. Following this, KERC had to comply with the ruling, enabling the inclusion of P&G payments in tariffs.

"Legality aside, this surcharge is unethical and high-handed," Shenoy stated.

"Consumers today had no part in the Government's past agreement with power sector employees. It was the Government's duty to earmark pension funds, like any responsible corporation would," he noted.

He also pointed out that the core purpose of KERC is to keep tariff decisions free from Government interference.

"That principle has been undermined by all three major parties — the BJP and JD(S) amended the Act and Congress is using the amendment to shift pension funding to consumers. The high cost of providing free electricity under Congress guarantee schemes is an additional burden," Bhamy Shenoy said.

Urges public action

MGP has called upon power consumers to pressure their elected representatives to raise the issue in the next Assembly session. "Right now, 90 percent of consumers receive free power and may not care. But if they ever start paying, the Act could be misused to fund unrelated projects at the public's expense," Shenoy warned.

He emphasised that KERC must remain truly autonomous, independent of political or bureaucratic influence, to protect consumer interests.

Rs. 2,000 Ashada Friday ticket exploits devotees' faith: MLA

Mysuru, June 16 (RK&BCT)- Taking exception to Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) collecting 36 paise per unit as Pension and Gratuity (P&G) contribution from April 2025, Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa has slammed the Congress Government, accusing it of depleting the State Exchequer.

"The Karnataka Government has gone bankrupt, and every day it finds new ways to fleece the already burdened people of the State. CM Siddaramaiah, who claims to be a financial expert with several budgets to his name, doesn't even understand how a household runs. **The CM claims Karnataka is prospering through the five guarantees, but the reality is the Government is bankrupt and people are fed up with daily hikes," the MLA said.**

Referring to the Rs. 2,000 ticket for devotees to have darshan of Goddess Chamundeshwari during Ashada Fridays, Srivatsa called it yet another move to exploit people's faith. "This year, they have also introduced a Rs. 300 ticket. For Rs. 2,000, devotees are given miniature figurines of Goddess Chamundeshwari and Gandabherunda as a token. This is shameful and unfortunate. The Government is making money even in matters of religion and personal faith," the MLA added.

'Music a divine art, embraces only achievers'

Artiste K. Nagarathna shares her views at Swaralaya Samskrutika Vaibhava-2025

Mysuru, June 16- Swaralaya Sangeetha Samsthe at Ramakrishnanagar in city, had organised 'Swaralaya Samskrutika Vaibhava-2025' (Swaralaya Cultural Extravaganza 2025) at Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha in city recently. The event was sponsored by the Department of Kannada and Culture, Bengaluru.

Speaking after inaugurating the programme, artiste K. Nagarathna said "Music is a divine art and it embraces only those who truly practice it. That's why those who dedicate themselves to the art are referred to as 'Sangeetha Saraswathi' or 'Sangeetha Sharade.' When an institution like this completes 35 years, it shows how strong and well-rooted its foundation is."

She highlighted that over last 35 years, Swaralaya has hosted numerous music programmes and nurtured many students. The District Rajyotsava Award bestowed upon Vidushi Suma Harinath signifies her dedication to the field of art.

Nagarathna emphasised that, talent and teaching methodology of Vidu. Suma Harinath, combined with the children's inquisitiveness to learn music and the encouragement of parents, enables such cultural extravaganzas to take place.

"Many children learn music but give up midway. My advice to them is that practicing music alongside your studies will not only enhance your mental concentration but also undoubtedly relieve mental stress," she said.

Music teacher Vidu. Rathna Soorappa was the chief guest and Chellam Lakshman, retired Headmistress of JSS Educational Institutions, was the special invitee.

Vidushi Suma Harinath, the founder President of Swaralaya presided. Dr. Prashanth Kanavi released a book on senior-level practical section authored by Vidu. Suma Harinath.

Renowned classical vocalist Hamsini S. Kumar presented a music concert. She was accompanied by Vid. C. Chethan on Violin and Vid. A. Shyam on Mridangam. Vidu. Ritu Kaivar and her troupe from Bengaluru's Flute N Feet Academy presented Bharatanatyam performance.

Vaishnavi Narasimhan and Akhila rendered invocation.

H.S. Sreekanthamani, Secretary of Swaralaya delivered the welcome address, compeered the programme and proposed a vote of thanks.

Most of our bureaucrats are honest: C.V. Gopinath

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif addressing the gathering at Anathalaya in city yesterday as C.V. Gopinath and Ashwathnarayan look on.

Mysuru, June 16 (BLU&DM)- Maintaining that most of our bureaucrats are honest, C.V. Gopinath, President of the city's Anathalaya Trust, who is also a retired Additional Secretary to Government of India, said that the entire bureaucracy cannot be blamed for the follies of a few.

He was speaking after presiding over Thathaiah memorial lecture series on the topic 'UPSC civil services competitive exam-tools and devices for cracking the exams — several dimensions of objectives and preparations,' organised at the Anathalaya in K.R. Mohalla yesterday.

Stating that one does not like talking to an IAS Officer when people meet MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, Gopinath said that the IAS Officer is so courteous and humble while communicating with the public. Pointing out that humanity will help in acquiring more knowledge, he said that degrees will have more value if he develop human values. Writing is more important than reading as it is of much help in comprehending the topics, he added.

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif in his address, said that clarity on the objective, purpose and skills hold key for cracking civil services exams.

"Everyone should contribute to the society. Interacting with knowledgeable persons will help in enhancing knowledge. There should always be a hunger for learning," Asif said adding that we should take failures as challenges to move up the ladder of success.

Stressing on the need for having good habits and hobbies, the MCC Commissioner said that personality, self-confidence and self-strength are key for success.

Anathalaya Directors Chitkala and Nagamani Sampath, Joint Director Venkatesh R. Padaki, Secretary H. Ashwathnarayan and others were present.

Sandalwood tree thefts rattle Yadavagiri residents

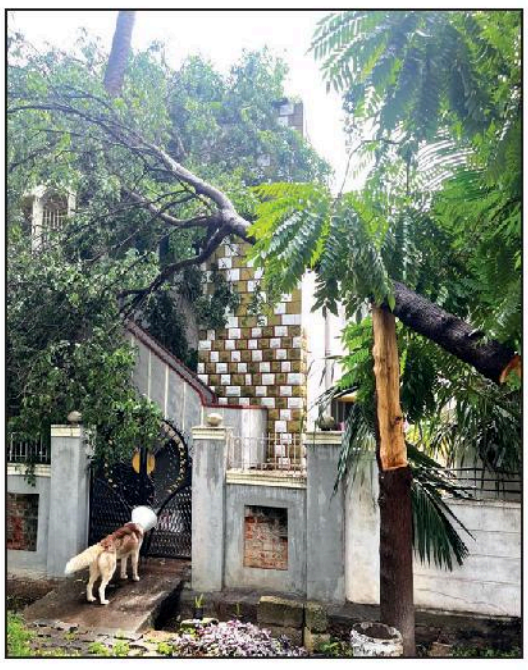
Mysuru, June 16 (BCT)- Barely days after miscreants chopped down a sandalwood tree inside the compound of a house at V.V. Mohalla and escaped with the trunk, similar incidents have been reported from Yadavagiri Sixth Main and Paramahamsa Road.

Residents told *Star of Mysore* that Yadavagiri has a few fully grown sandalwood trees, which have now become easy targets for thieves.

"There is a park on the Sixth Main and a sandalwood tree was cut down a week ago. Last night, there was another attempt to cut a tree near House No. 10 on Sixth Main. We heard dogs barking loudly inside the compounds and on the roads between 1 am and 3 am," a resident said.

"When we stepped out with torches and lathis, we saw three people fleeing into the dark areas of the park. They had used a mechanical saw to cut a branch to check if the tree was mature enough to chop down later," she added.

Residents said that last week, when the tree in the park was chopped down, they immediately alerted the Police. "A Garuda patrol vehicle came and drove around with sirens on, but could not trace the culprits. We also called the Forest Department, but the official who answered simply said the trees did not fall under his jurisdiction. We fear all the sandalwood trees here will eventually be stolen," another resident said.



In the earlier incident at V.V. Mohalla, miscreants had cut down a nearly 10-ft tall sandalwood tree inside the compound of Naveen's house on 16th Cross.

CCTV footage from the house shows three people chopping the tree at about 1 am and making off with the trunk. Jayalakshmipuram Police have registered a case and collected the footage for investigation.

Pune wrestler Vishal Segale bags 'Yaduveer Wadiyar' Cup

Mysuru, June 16 (MK&DM)- Pune-based wrestler Vishal Segale won the 'Maharaja Yaduveer Wadiyar' Cup in the National-level Traditional Wrestling tournament organised by Prakruti Foundation as part of its first anniversary at D. Devaraj Urs Multi-Purpose Stadium next Dasara Exhibition Grounds yesterday.

Vishal Segal won by pinning Belagavi wrestler Pailwan Manju at the evaporated soil *(Aave Mannu)* wrestling arena.

In the *Marpeet* section, the bout between Sangli's Sudesh Thakur and Pune's Vikram Ghorpade made the spectators stand on their feet. The bout between Kolhapur's Rushikesh Patil and Mahadevapura's Vikas too was a thrilling encounter.

The tournament saw more than seven pairs of women wrestlers from across the country. Senior wrestler of Belagavi Pailwan Mudukappa was felicitated.

Earlier, Karnataka State Biodiversity Development Board (KSBDB) Chairman S.E. Sudheendra and Nelamangala's Shivananda Ashram Seer Sri Ramanananda Swamiji inaugurated the tournament.

Prakruti Foundation President Kiran Kumar, members Dr. Sherlyn, Dhanush, Kiran Kumar, Nelamangala's Vaibhav Netralaya founder K. Bettathimmegowda, Bannur Siddaraju, Pailwan K. Madhusudhan, Pailwan Ganjam Manju and others were present.

Tribal settlement sparks row in Nagarahole wildlife zone

Deadlock in Athuru Kolli settlement: Forest Dept. says illegal; tribals say ancestral

Tribal families living in temporary tents erected at Athuru Kolli forest area of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Mysuru, June 16- Fifty-two tribal families have recently settled deep inside the Athuru Kolli forest, a dense and wildlife-rich area within the Balekovu Division of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, under the Kutta Range in Kodagu district.

Despite the dangers posed by elephants, tigers, leopards and bears, over 250 individuals have pitched temporary tents, demanding permanent resettlement.

Previously residing in line houses across coffee estates, they claim ancestral ties to this forest region, stating that their forebears were evicted nearly three decades ago by the Forest Department for rehabilitation purposes. With the support of certain social organisations and activists, they have now returned, asserting their right to the land.

'Forest Rights' claims rejected

Their applications for land and housing under the Forest Rights Act have faced serious legal challenges. None of the relevant Departments — including the Forest, Revenue, Social Welfare or Tribal Welfare — possess records indicating that these families ever resided in the area.

Their initial applications filed in 2011 under the Forest Rights Act were rejected due to a lack of evidence and a second attempt in 2024 was also dismissed by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC), which convened a hearing on June 2 and found no proof of prior residence.

Satellite imagery obtained by the Forest Department from 1985, 2011, 2019 and 2025 clearly shows no signs of human habitation in Athuru Kolli during those years. These images have been presented as evidence in the ongoing dispute.

Furthermore, multiple official surveys and Government-approved plans do not list Athuru Kolli as a recognised forest settlement. The 2006–2007 Mysore Action Plan fails to mention it among reserved forest settlements and the Nagarahole National Park Management Plan (2000–2010), approved in 2002, lists 43 forest settlements but excludes Athuru Kolli.

A University of Mysore survey conducted between 1999 and 2000, titled 'Inhabitants of Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Nagarahole — Family Profile,' led by Dr. Ramanaiah, Dr. N. Nagaraju and Ashok, documented 1,041 tribal families residing in Nagarahole but made no mention of Athuru Kolli.

Legal barriers under Forest Rights Act

Under Sections 3 and 4 of the Forest Rights Act, only tribal communities that had been residing in forest areas before December 13, 2005, are eligible for land and housing rights.

Since the families, currently residing in Athuru Kolli, cannot furnish evidence of pre-2005 occupancy, their claims remain legally untenable.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department faces the challenge of addressing their presence in a core wildlife zone, which not only violates Forest Laws but also poses serious risks to human life due to frequent wildlife movement in the area. Officials continue monitoring the situation while activists advocate for recognition of the families' rights.

'We will stay in the forest, even if it costs our lives'

Despite legal and safety concerns, the tribal families remain steadfast in their determination to stay in the forest. Speaking to *Star of Mysore,* tribal women like Sushila and Renuka recalled being displaced from Athuru Kolli nearly three decades ago by Forest Department officials who had promised them rehabilitation.

They insist that the area holds not only remnants of their past dwellings but also a sacred shrine central to their spiritual beliefs. "Even if we die, we will not leave this land," they declared, citing their ancestral roots and deep spiritual connection to the area.

For the past two to three decades, these families had been living in line houses (labourers' quarters) within coffee estates spread across the Kodagu district. However, economic pressures and changes in plantation labour patterns led to their return.

Many left due to low wages, while others found themselves displaced as jobs in plantations were increasingly taken up by migrant workers from Assam, which disrupted their traditional sources of income.

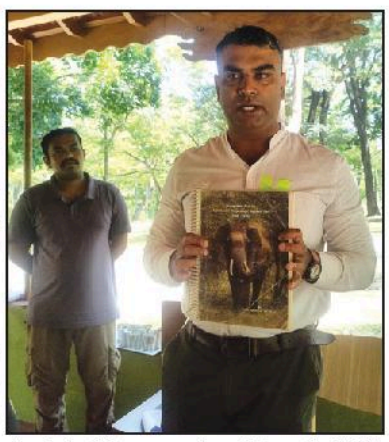
Now, having abandoned their previous homes, they have chosen Athuru Kolli, located on the Karnataka-Kerala border, as their permanent settlement. Reports suggest that a few tribal families from Kerala have also joined them. Despite their physical presence in the forest, these families face major obstacles in securing legal recognition under the Forest Rights Act.

While all 52 families possess Aadhaar and Ration cards listing their address as Kutta in Virajpet taluk, Kodagu district, none of their official documents mention Athuru Kolli.

Interestingly, they continue to receive benefits under Karnataka's Anna Bhagya and Gruha Lakshmi welfare schemes. However, their unofficial status in the forest leaves them vulnerable, without access to permanent housing or legal protection.

No lapses from our side: ACF

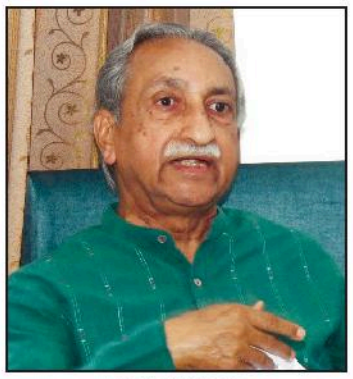
Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Ananya Kumar has clarified that the Forest Department has not committed any lapses or misconduct in handling the situation. He stated that there is no documented evidence of tribal habitation in Athuru Kolli from 1985 to 2025. Based on this lack of evidence, SDLC has legally rejected all applications submitted under Forest Rights Act in accordance with established norms and procedures.



Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Ananya Kumar displaying documents.

Heritage trees stand as living monuments

Noted environmentalist Dr. Natesh calls for State and public participation in conservation



Dr. S. Natesh

Mysuru, June 16 (SPN& BCT)- Dr. S. Natesh, noted environmentalist, former Advisor, Department of Biotech, Government of India and author of 'Iconic Trees of India', has stressed that safeguarding India's centuries-old heritage trees is a shared responsibility of State Governments and the public alike.

Delivering a talk titled "The Tree That Swallowed a Border Post and Other Iconic Trees of India" at the 'Science Sanje' programme organised by Kalasuruchi and Kutuhali-Kannada at Suruchi Rangamane, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru last evening, Dr. Natesh shed light on India's most remarkable trees and their fascinating histories.

He highlighted that many such trees, some dating back over a thousand years, continue to be protected by communities and even security forces at India's borders, standing as silent witnesses to the nation's cultural and historical evolution.

Dr. Natesh also spoke about the unique lifestyles of the Naga Sadhus of the Northeast, known for their deep traditional knowledge of forests and medicinal plants, yet another testament to India's rich natural heritage intertwined with cultural practices.

"These iconic trees are not mere botanical specimens — they are living chronicles of our past. Everyone must protect and nurture them for generations to come," he urged.

Iconic heritage trees of India

- **Chandigarh's 300-year-old banyan tree:** Located near the Gurudwara in Sector 38, this ancient banyan has been officially declared a heritage tree and symbolises the city's deep-rooted bond with nature.
- **The Indo-Pak border's 'tree that swallowed a post':** A massive banyan tree on the international border has engulfed a border post since 1947, preserved by the Border Security Force (BSF) as a living landmark of history.
- **Gujarat's 1,300-year-old 'walking mango tree':** In Sanjan village, this unique mango tree, locally called Sanjan Chalto Ambo, has reportedly 'moved' nearly 200 metres over centuries by growing new roots along its horizontally sprawling branches.
- **Asia's lone giant Sequoia tree:** At the CSIR Yarikha Field Station in Tangmarg, Baramulla district, North Kashmir, a giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum or Giant Redwood tree) — believed to be about 150 years old — holds the distinction of being the only surviving redwood species in Asia and has been declared a heritage tree.

Deemed forest lands under fresh scrutiny

Joint re-survey of 6,000 acres ordered in Mysuru district

Mysuru, June 16 (RK&BCT)- In a bid to resolve ownership disputes and clarify land status, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa has directed the Forest and Revenue Departments to conduct a joint re-survey of lands classified as deemed forests in Mysuru district. The aim is to verify whether these lands have been officially declared as such (deemed forest) under Forest Department guidelines.

Mahadevappa

Addressing reporters in city recently, Dr. Mahadevappa explained that any land with over 50 trees per acre, each having a minimum girth of 30 cm, is considered a deemed forest. However, several of these lands are currently being used for agricultural purposes, with some individuals allegedly cultivating them and claiming ownership illegally.

"To ensure clarity on land classification, we have ordered a comprehensive reassessment. If certain lands have not been formally notified as deemed forest, a decision will be made either to reclaim them as government property or permit farmers to retain them," he stated.

6,000 acres under review

A joint survey covering nearly 6,000 acres is currently underway. Of this, around 5,100 acres have already been assessed. The remaining land will be evaluated shortly, after which a detailed report will be submitted. Based on findings, further action will be taken, he noted.

"If the land is confirmed to be private agricultural property, the farmers will be allowed to harvest the trees they have cultivated," Dr. Mahadevappa added, underlining the importance of the re-survey in settling long-standing ownership disputes.

Focus on SSLC results

In a separate development, Dr. Mahadevappa expressed concern over the decline in SSLC (Class 10) exam results in the district.

Emphasising the need to prevent student drop-outs, he advocated for offering two additional attempts for students who have failed. "We must provide every opportunity for students to pass and continue their education. Efforts should be made to offer academic support and improve the quality of teaching," he said.

Officials have been urged to implement corrective measures to boost pass percentages and ensure improved learning outcomes in the coming academic year.

Bamboo craft is no longer old-fashioned

Artisans address raw material shortage, redefine tradition for modern markets

Mysuru, June 16 (BLU&TRR)- Bamboo artisans were once predicted to have a bleak future, as more attractive alternatives made of plastic, porcelain, fibre, steel and aluminium offered stiff competition, making bamboo products seem old-fashioned.

However, through sheer perseverance and skill, local artisans have overturned that prediction by infusing sophistication into their craftsmanship, creating fresh demand for their products.

Though bamboo products are traditionally rooted, they are now in demand after being adapted to modern tastes.

People continue to buy them despite their slightly higher prices. Bamboo caters to various domestic needs — Baagina Mora, baskets, handicrafts, bamboo sticks, bookshelves, easy chairs, cots and more were once common household items.

While these were gradually replaced by plastic, porcelain, fibre and metal alternatives, leading to a decline in bamboo's popularity, the craft has seen a revival as consumers, both urban and rural, rediscover its appeal. At one point, bamboo products were even said to be on the verge of extinction.

Shortage to steady supply

Earlier, manufacturers sourced bamboo from forests to produce domestic goods. However, when Forest Departments restricted unauthorised access, it seemed to confirm the looming decline of the industry. Instead, the bamboo shortage spurred farmers to cultivate bamboo as a lucrative cash crop, ensuring a steady supply.

Today, bamboo artisans source raw materials directly from farmers, establishing a reliable supply chain. This, combined with their refined craftsmanship, has revitalised the cottage industry.

Kamala, a bamboo artisan selling at Bamboo Bazaar, says, "Our products are handmade without machines and remain in high demand. There is no threat to our business."

Yet, artisans worry about the future. The younger generation shows little interest in continuing the tradition, preferring education and other professions. "We hope our craft ends with us, letting the next generation pursue their chosen paths," they say.

WORD OF THE DAY

Progeny

Pronunciation: PRAH-juh-nee (noun)
Meaning: Progeny refers to the child or descendant of a particular parent or family. Progeny can also refer to the offspring of an animal or plant, or broadly to something that is the product of something else. The plural of progeny is progeny.
Origin: Progeny is the progeny of the Latin verb prōgignere, meaning "to beget." That Latin word is itself an offspring of the prefix prō-, meaning "forth," and gignere, which can mean "to beget" or "to bring forth." Gignere has produced a large family of English descendants, including benign, engine, genius, germ, indigenous, and genuine. Gignere even paired up with prō- again to produce a close relative of progeny: the noun progenitor can mean "an ancestor in the direct line," "a biologically ancestral form," or "a precursor or originator."
Example: "'I am (We are) our ancestors' wildest dreams.' The phrase originated from New Orleans visual artist, activist, and filmmaker Brandan Odums, and was popularised by influential Black figures like Ava Duvernay, who used the phrase in tribute to the ancestors of First Lady Michelle Obama. Melvinia Shields, who was born a slave in 1844, would be survived by five generations of progeny, ultimately leading to her great-great-great granddaughter—Michelle Obama ..." — Christopher J. Schell, "Hope for the Wild in Afrofuturism," 2024.

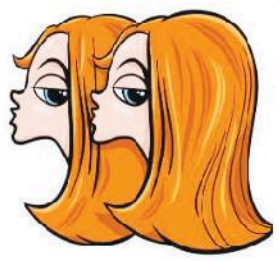
THE ODD WORD

Empleomania

A mania for holding public office.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Spitting Image



Meaning: The phrase 'Spitting Image' is used to say that one thing is the exact likeness of another.
Origin: The term 'Spitting Image' is an allusion to someone who is so like someone else as to appear to have been spat from his mouth. The concept and phrase were in circulation by 1689, when George Farquhar used it in his play Love and a Bottle: "Poor child! He's as like his own dada as if he were spit out of his mouth."
Example: The term 'Spitting Image' is an allusion to someone who is so like someone else as to appear to have been spat from his mouth. The concept and phrase were in circulation by 1689, when George Farquhar used it in his play Love and a Bottle: "Poor child! He's as like his own dada as if he were spit out of his mouth."

QUOTE BOX

It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.

—Anne Sexton

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

VAD ERS

Answer: Space invaders.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

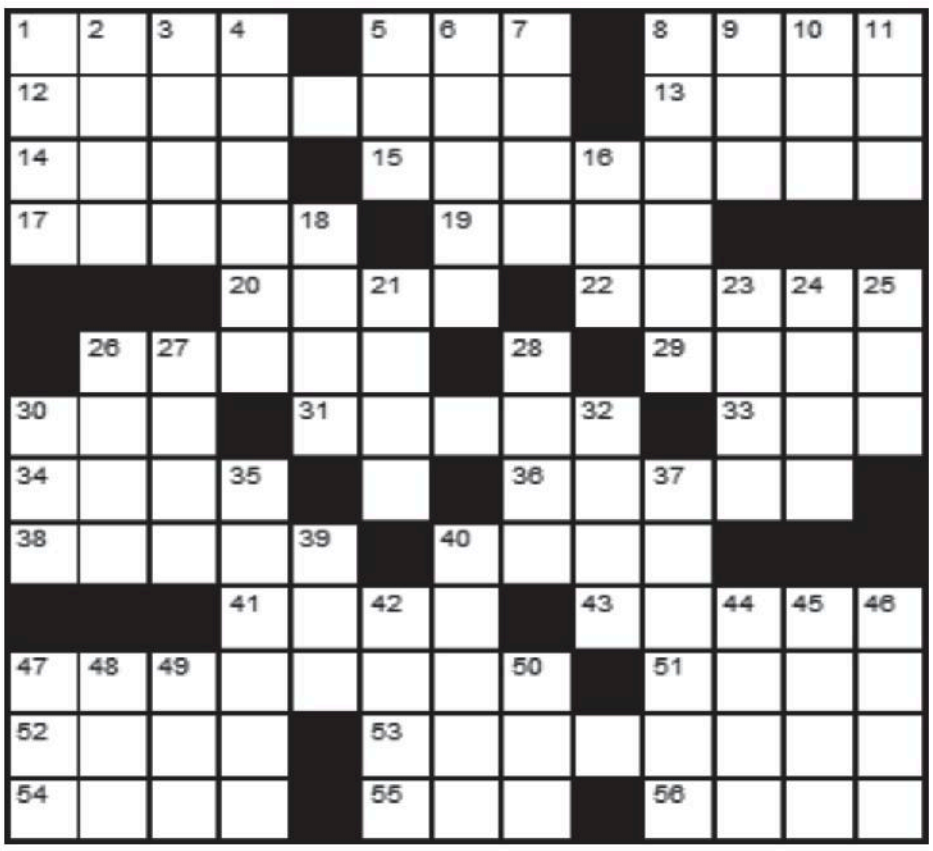
1 Unable to hear
5 Our air-force in short
8 Unrestricted
12 Palestinian resistance campaign
13 Space available
14 Small water body
15 Nourishing ingredient
17 Whacks or hits hard
19 Heavy metal?
20 The orient
22 The full range
26 Tropical fibre
29 Himalayan myth
30 From or back, as in "to and ___ "?
31 Rough woollen fabric
33 I think therefore _ __? (1,2)
34 Working-party
36 Aromatic resin
38 Red indian woman
40 Understanding term? (1,3)
41 In a while
43 Reside or inhabit
47 Federal capital of Australia
51 Wings or winglike parts
52 Verdi opera
53 Young maiden or miss in Spanish
54 Animal that is hunted
55 ___ number : 1 or 3 or 181 ?
56 Not shallow

DOWN

1 Immerses in water
2 Organic compound
3 __ __ time : never? (2,2)
4 Move nervously or restlessly?
5 Bond creator Fleming
6 Mature person
7 Karma
8 Robinson Crusoe's faithful companion
9 Fish eggs
10 Long period of time
11 CPR specialist
16 Scrap of cloth
18 Sodium chloride
21 Stitches
23 Former Israeli P.M.
24 Mormon state
25 ___ Henman : British tennis star?
26 Country in the Middle East
27 Playback singer ___ Nigam
28 Precious stones
30 Flight Guidance Sys.
32 Changed colour
35 Talkative person (sl.).
37 Prize
39 Grief
40 Owing money? (2,3)
42 Approximately (2,2)
44 Nobelist Wiesel
45 Arriving after the proper time
46 ___ year: 2024 for one
47 Condl. Access Sys.
48 Islet
49 BJP and their allies?
50 Plus, in addition to

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

D	H	O	W		A	L	E	C		I	D	O
R	E	N	I		N	O	A	H		N	A	L
U	R	A	L		K	A	R	I	S	H	M	A
G	A	N	D	A	L	F		P	S	U		
			E	W	E		F	I	R	M	L	Y
M	O	O	S	E		S	I	N		A	A	A
I	S	N	T		A	I	T		K	N	O	W
E	L	E		E	S	T		C	H	E	S	S
N	O	M	A	D	S		F	R	O			
		O	B	I		T	R	I	R	E	M	E
M	I	N	U	T	I	A	E		A	G	E	D
O	S	T		E	S	P	Y		N	E	R	D
D	T	H		D	O	S	A		A	R	E	A



SUDOKU

		8	1		4		2	
5			7					
3	7	2			6			
7			9					
	1						8	
					5			1
			4			7	6	3
					7			8
	9		3		1	4		

Answer to previous puzzle

7	9	1	2	5	3	4	6	8
4	3	6	1	8	9	2	7	5
5	8	2	4	7	6	3	9	1
2	7	8	6	4	1	9	5	3
6	5	9	3	2	7	8	1	4
3	1	4	8	9	5	7	2	6
1	6	7	9	3	8	5	4	2
8	4	5	7	1	2	6	3	9
9	2	3	5	6	4	1	8	7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

BYCBOY QKC KNZY FMWY FC UHSP HTHNOOR

TBYPJ MF QMFK TCWYCPY QKC KNTP'F.

TODAY'S CLUE: B EQUALS P

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: There are no accidents. God's just trying to remain anonymous.

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  Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Pudhupettai (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Mersal (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Holocaust (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Housefull 5 (H) - 3 Shows

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How To Train Your Dragon (E-3D)	(S-1)	11 am, 1.45 pm, 4.30 pm 7.10 pm, 9.55 pm
From The World of Johnwick Ballerina (E)	(S-2)	11 am, 7.15 pm, 10 pm
Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	(S-2)	1.45 pm, 4.30 pm
Maadeva (K)	(S-3)	10.10 am, 4.15 pm 7 pm, 9.50 pm
Mersal (Ta)	(S-3)	1 pm
Pudhupettai (Ta)	(S-4)	12.45 pm
Housefull 5A (H)	(S-4)	4.05 pm, 7.15 pm 10.30 pm

MVC MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	(S-1)	1.45 pm, 4.25 pm, 6.50 pm
Maadeva (K)	(S-1)	9.15 pm
	(S-2)	1.15 pm, 4.30 pm, 7.30 pm
Yuddhakaanda - Chapter 2 (K)	(S-3)	6.50 pm
Housefull 5A (H)	(S-4)	1.15 pm, 4.30 pm, 7.45 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

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How To Train Your Dragon (E-3D)	:	9 am, 11.30 am, 1.45 pm 5 pm 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning (E)	:	9.25 am, 3.40 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (E)	:	9.30 am, 11 am, 2.15 pm 4.30 pm, 7.45 pm, 10 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (H)	:	9.30 pm
Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	:	10.25 am, 1 pm, 6.55 pm
Housefull 5A (H)	:	10.25 am, 12.15 pm, 3.35 pm 6.55 pm, 10.15 pm
Pa...Pa...(O Naanna) (Te)	:	12.55 pm
Materialists (E)	:	1.45 pm, 4.20 pm, 9.30 pm
Sanju Weds Geetha 2 (K)	:	3.35 pm
Maadeva (K)	:	6.25 pm
Demon Slayer: Mugen Train (Japanese)	:	7.10 pm
Final Destination Bloodlines (E)	:	9.45 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 88009 00009

How To Train Your Dragon (E-3D)	:	9 am, 11 am, 2.15 pm 4.30 pm, 7.45 pm, 10 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (E)	:	9.30 am, 11.30 am, 1.45 pm 5 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Housefull 5A (H)	:	10.10 am, 12.15 pm, 4.20 pm 6.10 pm, 10.15 pm
Trailers Screening Show (Multi Language)	:	10.30 am
Maadeva (K)	:	1.30 pm
Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	:	3.35 pm, 7.40 pm, 9.30 pm

Success can be achieved by taking bitter incidents as a challenge: Dr. K. Kumar

Mysuru, June 16- The 102nd edition of the 'Interaction with Achievers' programme was held at Mysore Art Gallery on Ramanuja Road in city recently.

The event honoured one of Karnataka's most distinguished senior dance gurus, *Karnataka Kalashree* Dr. K. Kumar, Professor and Head of the Department of Dance, College of Fine Arts, University of Mysore, Manasagangothri. He is also the Founder and Director of Kumar Performing Arts Centre (KPAC) in Hebbal.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kumar said that everyone should overcome challenges for achieving success in life.

Recalling the bad days in his life, he said, he grew up in a locality in Mysuru where some people used to taunt him for learning dance and music. "However, I ignored all these taunts and earned a Ph.D degree in Music. Those were the days when learners used to take lessons from their gurus until they (gurus) got tired. But it is unfortunate that such an affectionate and bonding situation has got eroded with the passage of time," he bemoaned.

Karnataka Kalashree Dr. K. Kumar, who was felicitated by Mysore Art Gallery in city recently, is seen with his wife Dr. G. Malathi and others.

Stating that he dedicates his success to his parents, Dr. Kumar said: "I used to often sleep outside the house in the night as I was afraid of my father who was upset about me for learning dance and music. However, my mother was on my side and was always supportive of my choice and interest. After marriage, my wife too supported me fully. Though she is a Paediatrician by profession, she always stood behind me as I pursued my interest and also strived for my success. I have taught people of a village located in the heart of a forest near Sakleshpur and as such I have many disciples there too. I take credit for guiding as many as 24 Research Scholars in getting their Ph.D degrees in the last 13 years."

Dr. Kumar was accompanied by his wife Dr. G. Malathi and their daughters, *Kalemane Sisters* — K.M. Lekha and K.M. Nidhi — who actively took part in the event.

Chief guests for the programme were eminent senior theatre artiste K.J. Narayan Shetty and critic K.J. Kikkeri Narayan. Founder-President of Mysore Art Gallery L. Shivalingappa presided over the event.

Mysore Art Gallery Secretary Dr. Jamuna Rani V. Mirle, who welcomed, also compered.

Earlier, the event commenced with the unveiling of the emblem. The interaction was moderated by Dr. Jamuna Rani.

Dr. Kumar's disciples, including *Karnataka Kalashree* Vidu. Pushpa Krishnamurthy, Vid. M. Gopal, Sagar, Vid. Anandraj Urs, Mysuru, Dr. Sahana Bhat, Hubballi and Vid. S.M. Sharath, Mysuru and Kannada Sahitya Kalakoota, Mysuru, President M. Chandrashekar were present.

EVENTS TODAY (JUNE 16)

- **Sabarimala Sree Ayyappa Pooja Samithi - Sree Ayyappa Swamy and Sree Guruvayurappan Temple, foot of Chamundi Hill, Mysuru:** Pratishtapana anniversary, Prasada Shuddhi of Sri Guruvayurappan, Astra Kalasha Puja, Vaastu Homa, Vaastu Kalasha Puja, Vastu Kalashabhisheka, Vaastu Bali, Rakshogna Homa and Athazha Puja, Temple premises, **5.30 pm to 8 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JUNE 17)

- **Sabarimala Sree Ayyappa Pooja Samithi - Sree Ayyappa Swamy and Sree Guruvayurappan Temple, foot of Chamundi Hill, Mysuru:** Pratishtapana anniversary, Ganapati Homa, Chatushuddhi, Bima Shuddhi for Guruvayurappan, Panchagavyam, Panchagam, Astra Kalasha Puja, Kalashabhishekam, Ucha Puja, **5.30 am to 11.30 am;** Annadanam, **12 noon;** Deeparadhana, Special Pujas with Vadyam and Athazha Puja, Temple premises, **5.30 pm to 8 pm.**

INOX LIVE the MOVIE

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How To Train Your Dragon (E-3D)	:	9 am, 11.30 am, 2.15 pm 5 pm, 7.45 pm, 10.30 pm
Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	:	9.20 am, 1.25 pm, 9.40 pm
Housefull 5A	:	10 am, 11.45 am, 3.10 pm 6.35 pm, 10 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (H)	:	11.20 am, 6.55 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (E)	:	2.05 pm, 4.50 pm 7.35 pm, 10.20 pm
Sanju Weds Geetha 2 (K)	:	4.05 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Ph: 0821-4283555

Housefull 5 (H)	:	8.45 am, 11.55 am, 3.20 pm 6.45 pm, 10.10 pm
How To Train Your Dragon (E-3D)	:	8.50 am, 11.20 am, 2.05 pm 4.50 pm, 7.35 pm, 10.20 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (E)	:	9 am, 11.30 am, 2.15 pm 5 pm, 7.45 pm, 10.30 pm
From The World of John Wick: Ballerina (H)	:	4.15 pm
Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana (K)	:	10.45 am, 7 pm
Maadeva (K)	:	1.25 pm
Ronth (Ma)	:	9.40 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.